

2.7 Lesson 7: Water recontamination

Teacher's information – Lesson 7: Water recontamination

This lesson teaches the children how to store water safely and handle it hygienically. Store safe water during one night and drink it together on the next day.

Objectives – Knowledge

- Know three possible water recontamination stages

Objectives – Attitude

- Regard safe storing and hygienic handling of water as an integral part of water treatment

Objectives – Skills

- Capable of storing water safely and handling it hygienically

Time

- 40 minutes (Day 1)
- 10 minutes (Day 2)

Materials – School

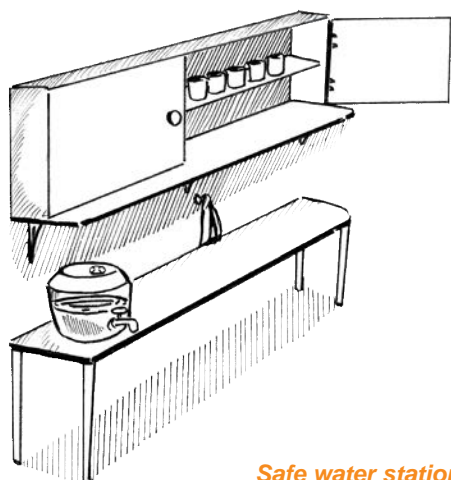
- Cups or glasses

Materials – Toolkit

- Images: Lesson 7

Infrastructure

- Safe water station



Safe water station with closet

Key messages of the lesson

- **Safe water does not remain automatically safe.**
- **Recontamination of water can be prevented by simple measures.**
- **Key elements are safe storage and hygiene water handling practices.**

Sources of water recontamination

Images: Prevent recontamination, Wrong water storage

1. Repeat the key message of the lesson “Water contamination” (see page 25).
 - Water contamination can occur at the source, during transport or inaccurate storage.
2. Show the images “Prevent recontamination”. Let the children arrange and present the sequence on good safe water handling practices.



Safe water storage

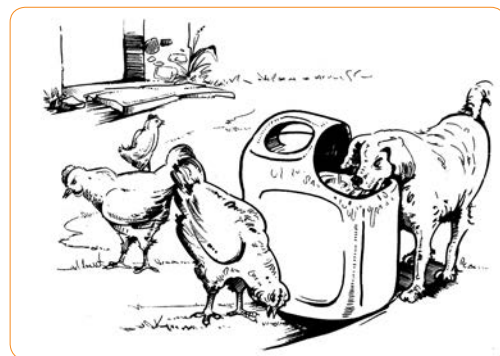


Cleaning hands

3. Help them arrange the sequence correctly and explain the different actions to prevent recontamination of safe water.
 - Transport the water safely to the storage place.
 - Store the water safely.
 - Wash hands, cups and dippers with soap before using the water.
4. Show the images “Wrong water storage” and explain the wrong behaviours.



Dirty bottles and cups

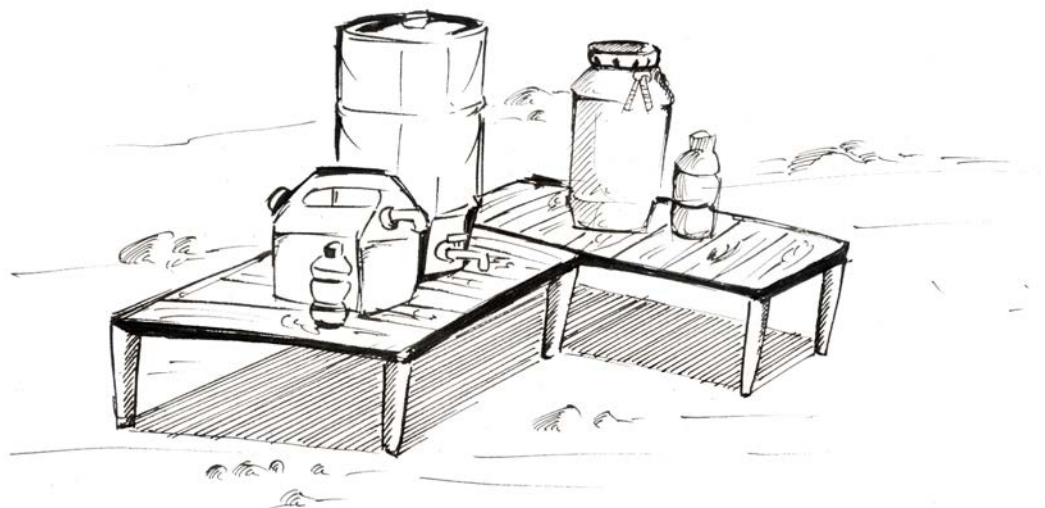


Animals drinking water

Good behaviour practice – safe water storage

Infrastructure: Safe water station

1. Jointly set up the safe water station (see page 90). This can also be carried out by the Safe Water Team.



Safe water station with storage containers and bottles

2. Explain the advantages of a safe water station. Safely store the water there until the next day and drink it together with the children. Place emphasis on a hygienic handling practice while storing and drinking the safe water.

What did we learn?

- Why is safe storage so important?
- Name three potential stages of water recontamination.
- Does treated water always have to be stored safely and handled hygienically?
- How do you store water safely?
- How do you handle water hygienically?

Home-bringing message

- Where do we store the water at home?
- How can we improve the situation?

2.7.1 Background information – Water recontamination

To prevent safe water from recontaminating, it should be stored in appropriate vessels and handled hygienically.

Storage in appropriate vessels

Since ancient times, people store water in containers made of different materials (e.g. wood, copper, animal hide). Today, also fabricated vessels made of aluminium or plastic are available almost worldwide.

SODIS water is ideally stored directly in the PET bottle used for its treatment. For other disinfection methods, several locally available and usually low-cost vessels are used (buckets, pots, jerry cans, barrels, used beverage containers, flexible bags, and flagons).

However, only some of these containers, particularly jerry cans, some plastic beverage containers and some flexible vessels are suitable for safe water storage. The five key factors influencing the impact of storage vessels are listed in the chapter “Safe water station” (see page 90).

Safe water handling practices

Several hygiene practices should be considered to keep the water safe:

- Use a specific container to collect and store untreated water
- Use a different container to store treated water
- Never use the same container for treated and untreated water
- Frequently clean the storage container with chlorine solution/soap/detergent
- Pour treated water from the container instead of scooping it out
- Drink treated water as soon as possible
- Store treated water off the ground in a shady place in the home, away from small children and animals¹⁴

¹⁴ CAWST: An introduction to household water treatment and safe storage. 2009.